

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: ELAB PINT SW

SUBJECT: ELECTION POLITICS DOMINATE MEETING AT WHICH NEW LO
PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT CHOSEN

REF: STOCKHOLM A-102

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SWEDISH LO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL APRIL 27 ELECTED
GUNNAR NILSSON PRESIDENT AND LARS WESTERBERG, VP, EFFECTIVE
JULY 1. MOST DISCUSSION AT MEETING WAS ON THREAT TO SOCIAL
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN SEPTEMBER ELECTION AND NEED TO COUNTER
WORKER INDIFFERENCE. END SUMMARY

2. SWEDISH TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (LO) EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
GAVE PRO- FORMA APPROVAL APRIL 27 TO LO BOARD RECOMMENDATION OF
GUNNAR NILSSON, CURRENT VP, AND METALWORKERS SECRETARY LARS
WESTERBERG AS LO PRESIDENT AND VP RESPECTIVELY TO
TAKE OFFICE JULY 1, 1973. NILSSON SUCCEEDS ARNE GEIJER WHO IS
RETIRING AFTER 17 YEARS AS LO PRESIDENT, BUT WHO WILL RETAIN PAR-
LIAMENTARY SEAT AND CHAIRMANSHIP OF RIKSDAG FOREIGN AFFAIRS COM-
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MITTE. E. NILSSON WILL NOT RPT NOT BE CANDIDATE IN SEPTEMBER

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION.

3. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING WAS PART OF LO 75 TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. AFTER CHOOSING OFFICERS AND REMINISCING, MAIN BUSINESS WAS TO DRUM UP LO SUPPORT FOR SOCDEMS IN SEPTEMBER PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION. GEIJER SET TONE BY SAYING SOCDEMS AND LABOR MOVEMENT ARE CLOSEST SINCE 1932 TO LOSING GOVERNING POWER. HE CHARGED THAT OPPORSSION VICTORY WOULD RAISE OBSTACLES TO TRADE UNION GOALS SUCH AS INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY, INCOME SECURITY, SAFETY AND WORK ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMS AND RAISED THE SPECTER OF RECALCITRANT EMPOLYERS NO LONGER FACED WITH THREAT OF LEGISLATIVE ALTERNATIVE BEING LESS WILLING TO NEGOTIATE OR OF USING FRIENDLY PARLIAMENT TO IMPOSE ANTI- WORKER LEGISLATION. RESULT WOULD BE INCREASED TRADE UNION AND POLITICAL STRIFE. MAIN LO TASK IS TO OVERCOME WORKER COMPLACENCY BRED BY PAST SUCCESSES. AS FIRST STEP, GEIJER ANNOUNCED LO CONTRIBUTION OF 2.5 MILLION KRONOR TO SOCDEMS ELECTORAL WAR CHEST. ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT OF 3 KRONOR PER LO MEMBER (5.4 MILLION KRONNOR) RECOMENDED.

4. TRADE UNION QUESTIONSSECONDARY WITH GEIJER URGING IMPROVEMENT PENSION PROGRAM AND NILSSON INDICATING WILLINGNESS TO CO-OPERATE WITH WHITE- COLLAR TCO.

5. COMMENT: GEIJER CALL TO POLITICAL WARS REPEATS WHAT LOWER-LEVEL LO OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN SAYING PRIVATELY. LO FEAR IS THAT UNHAPPINESS WITH CURRENT ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT SITUATION WILL LEAD MANY WORKERS TO EXPRESS DISSATISFACTION BY STAYING HOME ON ELECTION DAY. SINCE FULL LO SUPPORT ESSENTIAL TO SOCDEMS, FEAR TACTIC CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL TO OVERCOME WHAT IS DESCRIBED AS " UGLY MOOD" OF RANK- AND- FILE AND ACHIEVE TURN- AROUND IN SOCDEM PROSPECTS PRIOR TO SUMMER VACTION BREAK. HOWEVER, SAME- DAY PRESS INTERVIEW IN WHICH GEIJER PREDICTED SWEDEN FACING " NORMAL" UNEMPLOYMENT OF 3 PERCENT NOT LIKELY TO REASSURE RANK- AND- FILE.

DECON 10/1/73

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